

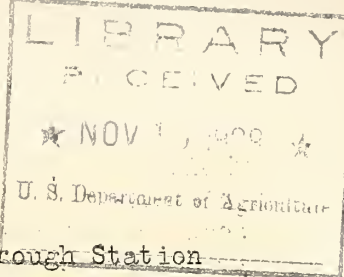
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## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER



A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Wednesday, November 6, 1929, at 1:10 p. m. Eastern Standard Time.

Well, folks, we are with you again for our regular monthly air visit in a little chat about the weather of October. Usually during this month there are three main features of weather that concern farmers most. First, the frost situation, especially if the corn and cotton crops happen to be late; second, the moisture and temperature situation, as regards seeding, germination, and early growth of winter grains, and third, the weather bearing on the harvesting of spring and summer-planted crops in Central and Southern States, especially in picking cotton.

As to the frost situation this year, October was rather unusual. During the latter part of September, killing frosts overspread parts of the northern Corn Belt, but in most of the area covered the crop was beyond danger, and no widespread harm resulted. Now, in a rather important corn area just south of where this frost occurred, conditions were very different. In extreme southern Iowa, practically all of Missouri, in the southern half of Illinois, and less extensively in southern Indiana, parts of Kentucky, and a few other sections, there was still much green corn, and many anxious moments were experienced in fear that frost would soon extend farther south and catch this before maturity.

Ordinarily, in the southward progress of the frost line in fall, a certain area is covered, and then the weather warms up, without additional frost for a few days, but soon another cool wave extends the frost line farther south. Fortunately, conditions this year, after the September frost, were different than usual. Instead of a further extension in a few days, in which event much green corn would have been caught, there followed a period of some three weeks with mostly warm, pleasant weather, which permitted practically all late corn to mature. The farthest south freezing temperatures were reported from first-order Weather Bureau stations in the interior States was eastern Kentucky, south-central Missouri, and west-central Texas. In the Mississippi Valley freezing weather did not extend as far south as St. Louis, Mo., while, heretofore, in October it has reached extreme northern Florida and the upper Texas coast, a temperature of 20° below zero has been experienced in October in some Northwestern States. With regard to corn, there was, however, more than the usual amount of rainy, cloudy, and damp weather in the principal producing States; the crop dried out slowly and continued too green to crib in many places.

In the case of winter grains, the situation was generally favorable, except in the far Northwest. At the beginning of the month rainfall was badly needed in some areas, especially the western lake region, including the northern portions of Indiana and Illinois, and in Missouri and eastern Kansas, but before the middle of the month, the situation was largely relieved. A little later generous rains put the soil in good condition practically everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. For the month, as a

whole, nearly all important Winter Grain States had from one and a quarter to nearly twice the usual amount of rainfall. This, together with mostly seasonable temperatures, favored good germination, and rapid growth of young wheat, and permitted seeding in the theretofore dry sections. By October 20, the crop was practically all seeded in Kansas and in the western two-thirds of the State, it generally covered the ground and was being pastured. By the close of the month, plants were generally 3 to 5 inches high, with some apprehension as to too rank growth in sections. Wheat fields are affording much pasturage in the southern Great Plains, and conditions are generally satisfactory east of the Rockies. In the more western States, however, October weather was decidedly unfavorable, especially in the important wheat sections of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. At the close of September, the soil was unusually dry in this area, and October brought less than half the usual amount of rainfall, which intensified the droughty conditions. Seeding was seriously delayed, and germination poor; the wheat put in was largely sown in very dry soil, although some material relief by showers was afforded in parts of Washington, toward the close of the month.

The heavy to excessive rains attending the northward movement of a tropical storm the first week in October, were very harmful to cotton in the Atlantic States; picking was suspended; there were many complaints of bolls rotting and damage to staple, together with ruined fields from overflowed bottom land. In the central and western portions of the Cotton Belt conditions were more favorable, and picking and ginning made good progress. During the second week of the month rains in the northwest were unfavorable, but in the east the dry, sunny weather, following the previously excessive rains, was very helpful, while the third week was mostly favorable for field work throughout the Southern States. The latter part of the month cool weather, with frost occurred in the west and northwestern belt, and some cotton tops were injured, with growth generally stopped. No serious harm resulted, but, on the other hand, the frost promoted rapid opening of bolls. Well, this is about all the weather we can have in five minutes, and we must say "good-bye" until next month.